

Word equations are used to show chemical reactions.

You start with ...

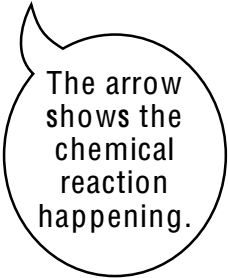
You end up with ...

**methane + oxygen → carbon dioxide + water**

The substances you start with are put on the left.

A plus sign is put between the substances.

These substances are called **reactants**.



The arrow shows the chemical reaction happening.

The substances you end up with are put on the right.

Again, a plus sign is put between the substances.

These substances are called **products**.

### Some common reactions

- Burning magnesium:  
**magnesium + oxygen → magnesium oxide**
- Photosynthesis:  
**carbon dioxide + water → glucose + oxygen**
- Respiration:  
**glucose + oxygen → carbon dioxide + water**
- Neutralising acid:  
**hydrochloric acid + sodium hydroxide → sodium chloride + water**
- Displacing copper:  
**copper sulphate + zinc → zinc sulphate + copper**